REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated May 29, 2003 and the references cited therein. In response thereto, claims 1 and 4 are deleted; claims 2-3, 5-7, and 9-11 are amended; claims 12-16 are canceled; and claim 8 is previously presented. Claims 2-3 and 5-11 are pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freedman, in view of Seybold Report, and further in view of Online Interactive Calculators ("OIC"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Freedman teaches a system where a remote computer submits information to a central computer which then returns pricing information. More particularly, Freedman teaches a network incorporating expert system software that reviews inputs from a user/requestor. Once the central computer is provided with all the previously described information for a printing job, the central computer automatically returns cost information, timing, and other pertinent information to the requester's computer (see at least abstract, Fig. 1a, Figure 2a, col. 1, line 10 through col. 4, line 2). On the contrary, the claimed invention provides a price calculator on a client user/requestor side. This allows a use/requestor to generate their own pricing information, independent of any central server computer. Freeman fails to disclose or teach a client-side system where no interaction with a central computer is needed for a user (requestor) to generate pricing information. A client-side calculator of the claimed invention allows a user to calculate and display a price quote substantially instantaneous as the user selects or enters data for printing configuration options. The calculating and displaying of the price quote is done without querying a service provider's server.

Neither Seybold Report nor OIC discloses or teaches the above discussed features. In the references, a client computer interacts with a provider's server each time a price is sought on a new configuration, quantity, etc. By providing a calculator on a client computer, the present invention speeds up the interaction and is capable of calculating price information from a browser page without having an active Internet connection. Further, prior to the present invention, price estimates or quotes were derived by submitting one or more sets of

specifications to one or more printing vendors (as described in Sevcik), then awaiting for a response. One of the breakthroughs of the present invention is to supply an online price calculator directly to a client/user/customer, allowing the client/user/customer to generate their own price quotes without contacting either a printing vendor or a printing vendor's central server (Freedman). OIC articles teach systems where a user completes a form in a client browser and then submits that form to a central computer server which then returns payment estimates and other information. None of the prior systems have involved in a truly instant pricing calculator that functions on a client's computer, independent of the provider's server.

Claim 2 is now amended to include previously presented claims 1 and 4 which have recited the above discussed features. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the cited references. Claims 3 and 5-11, which are dependent from claim 2, are also patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Applicant further notes that claims 12-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and are canceled to expedite the prosecution process.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference, Sevcik, is not a prior art reference because Sevcik has a later filing date, Nov. 24, 1999, than the priority date of the present application, March 3, 1999.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and examination of the present application are respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would resolve any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

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